

Name: _____ Date: _____

“THE BLACK DOG” BY J. BERNLEF

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Respond to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Use the “Short Story Literary Elements” handout to help you answer these questions. Remember to include evidence from the story to support your answers.

1. Provide an example of, and evaluate the use of, the following literary devices throughout the text.
 - a. Irony
 - b. Foreshadowing
2. Why is there such a focus on the description of the dog on page 69? Describe, in your own words, what is wrong with this animal.
3. Discuss the symbolism of the portrait of the boy’s mother and father. What importance does it hold for him?
4. Describe a cathartic moment for the boy. How does this reveal his true feelings about his father?
5. What is the mood of the story? How does the author use this mood to evoke sympathy for the protagonist?
6. Explain the significance of the father’s joke in the first paragraph of the story.